
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that low-income
2 individuals have an extremely difficult time finding affordable
3 rentals in Hawaii. This situation is made more frustrating when
4 housing vacancy advertisements discourage people from applying
5 by advertising "no section 8 accepted." Hawaii's laws currently
6 do not prohibit discrimination based on receipt of public
7 benefits. However, a number of other states have prohibited
8 this type of income discrimination. Renters who participate in
9 government assistance programs, such as the federal Housing
10 Choice Voucher program, also known as section 8 housing, should
11 have an equal opportunity to find housing.

12 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit discrimination based
13 on receipt of public benefits in the rental of real estate.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 521, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§521- Discrimination; rental transactions. (a) No
18 person shall refuse to engage in a rental transaction with



1 another individual solely because the individual is a recipient
2 of public assistance.

3 (b) For the purpose of this section:

4 "Rental transaction" means any part of a process or
5 transaction for the rental or lease of premises, including
6 advertising for the rental or lease of premises.

7 "Public assistance" means any government or private
8 assistance, grant, loan, or rental assistance program, including
9 low-income housing assistance certificates and vouchers under
10 the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended."

11 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
12 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
13 begun before its effective date.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Discrimination in Rental Transactions; Public Benefits

Description:

Prohibits a person from refusing to engage in a rental transaction with another solely based on that other being a recipient of public benefits. Effective July 1, 2112. (HB676 HD2)

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